

**Mark Spellmann, PhD
Clinical Psychologist
119 Ball Pond Rd
New Fairfield, CT 06812
30 W. 70th Street, Suite 1-C
New York, NY 10023
203 546-7276
203 841-1279 (Fax)**

markspellmannphd@gmail.com

www.markspellmannphd.com

NPI#: 1710244017

CT State License: 3152, NY State License: 012820

RE: HB 5046: An Act Adopting The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact And Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

March 5, 2022

I am a psychologist in private practice in New Fairfield, Connecticut; and a member of the executive committee of the Connecticut Psychological Association (CPA). I am writing to advocate for the passage of PsyPACT legislation as part of HB 5064. PsyPACT will provide consistent policies and regulations for the interstate practice of psychology, including telehealth. During the COVID pandemic, telehealth expanded from a small fraction of how we practice to a major modality for treating our patients. The major expansion has dramatically increased the urgency for Connecticut to join PsyPACT. PsyPACT has already being successfully adopted and implemented across the country. We need to join PsyPACT this year.

Larger national context

PsyPACT was developed in 2015, and first ratified by the state of Arizona in 2016. Twenty-eight states have already passed legislation for their psychologists to join PsyPACT. Ten more are considering joining (please see appendix for list of states). We need to be part of the national movement; we Connecticut psychologists don't want to be left out.

Why CT residents need PsyPACT

PsyPACT provides greater consumer protection and greater access to psychological services.

Why our patients need PsyPACT

PsyPACT enables us to treat our Connecticut patients when they travel across state lines for up to 30 days. It enables us to support them during the first month of a move or transition, or during a crisis that they must travel across state lines to manage. It also clarifies our role and scope in interstate contexts.

Why we need PsyPACT as a profession

A profession is defined by its well defined expertise, explicit ethics, clear limits, and explicitly codified rules, regulations and procedures. Telehealth by psychologists across state lines urgently needs these elements and PsyPACT provides them.

Why I PsyPACT to protect my practice

Sometimes family crises require my patients to travel to other states to address urgent family problems. Recently a patient of mine, a mother of three, had to travel to a southern state to fill in for her ex-husband who lives with bi-polar disorder and suffers severe decompensations from time to time. In general, he is a high-functioning professional in IT. But he had suffered an acute episode and was unable to care for their children for several weeks. During that time she was confronted by multiple challenges. She needed a lot of emotional support and help with problem solving. Of course I continued seeing her by telehealth. But this is uncertain territory, and PsyPACT would bring badly needed standardized policies and guidelines for situations like these where our patients need our support in crisis situations such as these.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Spellmann

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28 PSYPACT PARTICIPATING STATES

Alabama - AL SB 102 (Enacted 3/18/2021)
Arizona - AZ HB 2503 (Enacted on 5/17/2016)
Arkansas - AR HB 1760 (Enacted 4/25/2021)
Colorado - CO HB 1017 (Enacted 4/12/2018)
Delaware - DE HB 172 (Enacted 6/27/2019)
District of Columbia - DC B 145 (Enacted 3/16/2021)
Georgia - GA HB 26 (Enacted 4/23/2019)
Illinois - IL HB 1853 (Enacted 8/22/2018)
Kansas - KS SB 170 (Enacted 5/17/2021)
Kentucky - KY HB 38 (Enacted 3/18/2021)
Maine - ME HB 631 (Enacted 6/22/2021)
Maryland - MD HB 970 (Enacted 5/18/2021)
Minnesota - MN SB 193 (Enacted 5/25/2021)
Missouri - MO HB 1719/MO SB 660 (Enacted 6/1/2018)
Nebraska - NE L 1034 (Enacted 4/23/2018)
Nevada - NV AB 429 (Enacted on 5/26/2017)
New Hampshire- NH SB 232 (Enacted 7/10/2019)
New Jersey - NJ A 4205/NJ S 2506 (Enacted 9/24/2021)
North Carolina - NC 361 (Enacted 7/1/2020)
Ohio - OH S 2 (Enacted 4/27/2021)
Oklahoma - OK HB 1057 (Enacted 4/29/2019)
Pennsylvania - PA SB 67 (Enacted 5/8/2020)
Tennessee - TN S 161 (Enacted 5/11/2021)
Texas - TX HB 1501 (Enacted 6/10/2019)
Utah - UT SB 106 (Enacted on 3/17/2017)
Virginia - VA SB 760 (Enacted 4/11/2020)
West Virginia - WV SB 668 (Enacted 4/21/2021)
Wisconsin - WI A 537 (Enacted 2/4/2022)

10 STATES/TERRITORIES WITH PENDING PSYPACT LEGISLATION

Massachusetts - MA S 2542
Michigan - MI H 5489
Indiana - IN H 1069/IN S 365
Florida - FL H 953/FL S 1370
Washington - WA H 1286
South Carolina - SC H 3833
Connecticut - CT H 5046
Idaho - ID S 1305
Rhode Island - RI H 7501
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - CNMI HB 22-80